

We claim:

1. A method for detection of an apolipoprotein comprising reacting saliva with antibodies immunoreactive with the apolipoprotein.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the apolipoprotein is selected from the group consisting of Apo A, Apo B, Apo C, Apo E, and components thereof.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the apolipoprotein is selected from the group consisting of Apo A1 and Apo B.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the antibodies are labelled with a detectable label.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the saliva is tested less than three hours following collection.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the saliva is prepared prior to testing to remove mucopolysaccharides.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the saliva is collected after stimulation.
8. The method of claim 1 further comprising determining the amount of albumin present in the saliva.
9. The method of claim 8 further comprising normalizing the amount of apolipoprotein to the amount of albumin present in the saliva.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the saliva is collected into a device which filters out mucopolysaccharides and comprises antibodies immunoreactive with one or more apolipoproteins.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein the apolipoprotein is either Apo A1 or Apo B.
12. An assay device or kit for determining the amount of apolipoprotein in a saliva sample comprising means for collection of saliva and antibodies immunoreactive with an apolipoprotein.
13. The assay device or kit of claim 12 comprising filter means for removal of mucopolysaccharide from the saliva.
14. The assay device or kit of claim 12 wherein the antibodies are reactive with apolipoprotein selected from the group consisting of Apo A, Apo B, Apo C, Apo E, and components thereof.

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15. The assay device or kit of claim 12 further comprising antibodies immunoreactive with albumin.
16. The assay device or kit wherein the antibodies are contained on or immobilized on a solid support.
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17. The assay device or kit of claim 16 comprising reagents for detection of complexes between the apolipoprotein and the antibodies.
18. The assay device or kit comprising a strip or dipstick.
19. The assay device or kit comprising as separate reagents antibodies to an apolipoprotein and antibodies to albumin.
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20. A method for quantitating the amount of lipoprotein or cholesterol in saliva or the presence of lipid disorders or risk of cardiovascular disease comprising reacting a saliva sample with antibodies specifically immunoreactive with apolipoprotein selected from the group consisting of Apo A, Apo B, Apo C, Apo E, and components thereof.
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